



**David J. Della**  
Seattle City Councilmember

## SEATTLE PERSPECTIVE

*Getting Things Done & Getting Seattle Working Again*  
Newsletter from Seattle City Councilmember David J. Della  
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As you have probably heard, the City Council will be tackling one of the most important transportation issues facing our city – the Monorail. Just like many of you, I am gravely concerned about the details of the recently released financial plans for the Green Line of the Monorail. As we were finalizing this newsletter, the Seattle Monorail Board decided to pull this financial proposal. We need a mass transit option that is financially sound and viable, and I intend to push for a thorough financial review of any proposal we receive from the Seattle Monorail Board. I will need your feedback and your opinion about this issue. Stay tuned and in the future, I will send out regular updates when we begin our review of this project.

In this edition of *Seattle Perspective*, you'll read about my work to: protect ratepayers, keep recreational facilities accessible, preserve and create family-wage jobs, and build strong schools and healthy communities.

I hope that you'll continue to contact me to share your thoughts on neighborhood and city issues. I look forward to hearing from you and continuing to work with you to get things done and get Seattle working again.

Sincerely,

**Councilmember David J. Della**

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## PROTECTING RATEPAYERS

### Council Passes Financial Policies to Keep City Light Sound

I originally decided to run for office because I believed that the City Council needed to exert stronger oversight on Seattle City Light. Now, I am putting my promise into action.

As a member of the Energy & Environmental Committee, along with my colleague and chair of this Committee, Councilmember Jean Godden, I led in shaping City Light's Financial Policies, which were adopted unanimously by the City Council in May 2005. These policies will keep Seattle City Light fiscally sound in the long-term, reduce the utility's debt, and allow for savings to be passed on to ratepayers in the future.

Learning from the bitter lessons in 2000 and following the recommendations made in the 2002 Vantage Audit Report, we adopted policies that now require City Light to maintain its contingency reserve fund balance, or 'rainy day' account, at \$25 million. This measure will ensure that we have significant cash reserves on hand in the event of an emergency.

Council also adopted a specific requirement to decrease City Light's reliance upon debt to finance capital projects by requiring a debt to capitalization ratio of 60% be established and met by 2010. Additionally, we mandated that an asset management program – a program that will help City Light

plan the allocation of its resources and projection of energy usage efficiently – be implemented by 2007.

Council directed City Light to also maintain a 95% coverage policy in planning to serve customer load. This means that City Light is now required to have sufficient resources on hand so as to significantly reduce the likelihood that City Light will have to purchase power on the spot market. You may recall that City Light ran into trouble partly because it did not have enough power generating resources on hand which forced it to purchase power on the open market at a time of skyrocketing and volatile rates.

And finally, we adopted a provision that requires City Light, with input from ratepayers, to implement a performance reporting system. City Light will issue an annual report to customers with available information from this system. This will improve customer input and increase transparency of the agency.

These policies keep our focus on ensuring the long-term financial stability of City Light, demand greater accountability and transparency, and guarantee that City Light charts a more prudent financial course while keeping in mind the goal of stable and affordable rates for everyone.



*(Joining Parks Superintendent Ken Bounds to celebrate the grand opening of Homer Harris Park.)*

## KEEPING PARKS GREEN, CLEAN & ACCESSIBLE

### Occidental Park Plan Reviewed & Improved

After some modification, the City Council voted unanimously to approve a plan for improvements for Occidental Park in Pioneer Square. These improvements will make Occidental Park more active and accessible for everyone. Before, the park had been an attraction for unhealthy and, at times, illegal activities. In the coming months, Occidental Park will undergo a complete transformation. It will be a more active place for concerts and recreational activities with increased light and air and a new performance area.

One of the more controversial aspects of the design called for removal of trees - both healthy and unhealthy - in order to let in more natural light. With this proposal, I made sure that we did everything we can to reactivate the Park while preserving as many of the healthy trees as possible by asking the Parks Department to revise the design to preserve more healthy trees and

requiring a two-for-one tree replacement in the general Pioneer Square and South Downtown areas. I spoke personally with a number of Pioneer Square community leaders who are excited about the planned improvements. I look forward to this park becoming a downtown gathering place and an urban oasis to be enjoyed and shared by all.

### **Coming to Boren/ Pike/ Pine Park – A New Off-leash Area**

Seattle is home to thousands of households who care a lot about their pets. This quarter, I guided the review and approval of a new off-leash area for dogs within “Four Columns” or Boren-Pike-Pine Park – located in Capitol Hill.

In the 2000 Pro Parks Levy, voters approved planned improvements for Boren-Pike-Pine Park. Last year, however, bids for a redesign of this park came back 25% higher than the amount budgeted. As a result, community members initiated a grass-roots effort for a more cost-efficient design by including and creating a new off-leash area within this park. The creation of this new off-leash area was widely supported after a significant amount of community discussion. The financial challenges of Boren-Pike-Pine Park offered a unique opportunity for the City and the neighborhood to work together toward a creative solution. This new off-leash area will give dog owners a new place to come together and will help to revitalize the park. Congratulations and thank you to members of the Pike/Pine Urban Neighborhood Council who worked hard to develop this park!



*(Councilmember David J. Della with members of the Mount Baker Rowing and Sailing Center.)*

### **Magnuson Park Master Plan Revisited**

In April, City Council revisited and voted to phase in lighting at four fields at Magnuson Park, and monitor the impact of those lights for two years before additional light poles go up at three other fields. Unfortunately with this vote, the Council back-tracked from a previous unanimous City Council vote which adopted the Magnuson Park Master Plan in June 2004, a set of compromises that took tremendous effort and work to bridge the competing stakeholders. In the original plan, the City Council committed to seven lighted sports fields.

What happened? A neighborhood group sued, lost, appealed, and threatened the City Council with the filing of a new lawsuit if the fields were not phased in slowly and studied. Should the City Council have stayed true to the original plan and agreement? As Chair of the Parks Neighborhoods and Education Committee, I voted against reversing our originally agreed to compromise plan. It boils down to exercising decisive leadership. When you elected us,

you entrusted each of us to make the best and thoughtful decisions. Revisiting issues over and over again is a waste of people’s time and a waste of taxpayers’ money.

### **Park’s Enterprise Division Policy Framework Update**

Over the past few years, our Parks system has grown. Through support for the 2000 Pro Parks Levy, the residents of this city have demonstrated a strong affinity for and commitment to our parks. However, our budget is limited when it comes to finding funds to maintain our parks. During last year’s budget process, the Parks Department proposed a new Enterprise Division designed to consolidate programs, services, and staffing, and to explore ways to generate new revenues. The City Council approved this change with the caveat that the Parks Department develop a framework for implementation of new revenue ideas. My intent for this review is to ensure City Council involvement in any decisions regarding new and potential revenues for this department. The first briefing that we held on this new division was not as detailed as I had hoped. I look forward to working with the Parks Department in shaping their revenue framework policies. Operating and maintaining parks and programs that promote conservation and community involvement can be quite costly. However, we must continue to be mindful of keeping parks green, clean and accessible to all.



## Keeping Volunteer Park Conservatory Open & Free

You may recall from our budget process last year, that I, along with my colleagues on the Council fought back a proposal to charge a mandatory \$5 admission fee to the Volunteer Park Conservatory. We heard from many citizens that they enjoy the Conservatory and wanted to keep it open and accessible.

While the Council did not agree with charging a mandatory admission fee to the Conservatory, given the fiscal realities of the City, we wanted to see newer and greater efforts made toward offsetting some of the costs for operating and maintaining the Conservatory. We requested that staff from the Parks Department work with the Friends of the Conservatory, a community organization established to provide financial support for this unique institution, to develop a feasible set of options. Together, they came up with some possibilities that, in the aggregate, could help raise donation revenues. The Council will continue to work with the Parks Department and Friends of the Conservatory to explore these options further and help ensure the sustainability of the Conservatory.

## PRESERVING & CREATING FAMILY WAGE JOBS

### Support for Maritime/ Industrial Jobs in North Bay

Several weeks ago, I initiated legislation that would have postponed until 2006, the Port of



*(Meeting with local business owners, Jaime Garcia and Thao Tran from the Rainier Community Development Fund to talk about how to preserve family wage jobs.)*

Seattle's proposal to redevelop the 142-acre North Bay site (traditionally known as Interbay) into a mixed-use campus. The Port had submitted an amendment to change the City's Comprehensive Plan that would have permitted office, retail and residential use development at Interbay. This mixed-use development is a significant departure from what the current industrial zones permit. My concern with this proposal is that this land is one of the last sizable chunks of largely undeveloped industrial land in King County. I believe that we need to diversify our city's economic base, which means not just supporting the knowledge-based industries, but also supporting our traditional industrial and maritime industries.

Postponing the Port's proposal until 2006 would have allowed the Port additional time to finish their environmental review process in July 2005 and would have allowed time for the selection of a "preferred alternative" before the end of the year. For the City, it would have given staff much needed time to develop the City's industrial land base study, which has not been updated since the 1970's. For the community, it would have provided

opportunities for industrial/maritime stakeholders to share their ideas with surrounding neighborhoods and the Port.

Having been a former cannery-union organizer, I believe that this land provides a solid, unique backdrop for good-paying maritime and industrial jobs the city needs to preserve. The core of the issue is larger than the battle over the future of the North Bay/Interbay area and has major policy implications for our City in preserving our industrial/manufacturing/maritime economic base.

In the end, my proposal to preserve these jobs was short just one vote. We will continue to wrestle with this issue -- stay tuned.

## BUILDING STRONG SCHOOLS & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

### Schools to Receive Families & Education Levy Support

Under my leadership, the City Council unanimously passed an action plan to implement the Families and Education Levy to support our Seattle Public School students and families. Using the revenues from a seven-year property tax levy, the city will continue to partner with the School District to provide over \$116 million for programs for our city's youth and families.

When we initially developed this proposal to put forward to voters, we promised accountability. Our



*(Getting a sneak peek of the recently opened International District/Chinatown Library with Uncle Bob and Julie Ann Oiye, Branch Manager.)*

recently adopted plan of action was based on an, "Outcomes-Based Funding Framework" which assures the evaluation of results. Certainly, some of the ways the levy touches individual students' and families' lives are immeasurable. However, we will track the things that we can measure: school readiness, academic achievement, and reduction of the achievement gap and drop out rates.

The levy implementation plan adopted by Council emphasizes cultural competence in program design and delivery and attempts to incorporate family involvement in all levy programs. More specifically, the plan calls for the development of two early learning networks - one each in southeast and southwest Seattle - with an expansion to include Seattle's Central Area after the first year of the Levy. Funding for the school district to retain family support workers who will assist elementary students throughout the school district is also included.

For middle school students, the levy establishes four innovation sites in southeast and southwest Seattle that

will combine multiple programs -- including after-school activities. Services outside of these four innovation sites will be provided based on need.

In selected middle schools and all regular high schools, the levy will provide access to primary health care, including both medical and mental health services through teen health centers and middle school wellness centers. Funding is also included for school nurses.

Other elements of the plan include: support for high-risk middle and high school youth as provided by Seattle Team for Youth; funding for schools and community based organizations to provide family involvement programs; and funding for school crossing guards.

On June 15, the School Board voted to unanimously ratify a partnership agreement between the City and School District, the final step in putting the levy into action.

### **Pesticide Use Along Creeks Controlled**

Last month, I supported legislation that encouraged the City to reduce the use of harmful pesticides on public property and to encourage private landowners to voluntarily reduce their use of such pesticides. The resolution also set the stage for a possible ban on the most harmful pesticides in the future. This legislation is a follow-up to Council action that established the goal of eliminating the use of the most hazardous pesticides, called Tier 1 pesticides, in City-owned landscapes

and reducing the remaining pesticide use by 30%. The City has met those goals -- except for city-owned golf courses. This resolution called for the City to continue its efforts to reduce pesticide use on golf courses and to review and develop ways to further reduce the City's use of pesticides.

### **Drug Policies, Law Enforcement, & Safe Streets Discussion**

Everywhere I go throughout the City, a top concern shared by businesses and residents alike is public safety. As Vice Chair of the Public Safety Civil Rights and Arts Committee, I am committed to ensuring safer communities. This past quarter, I helped organize events that brought together community members, city staff, and elected officials on public safety issues. In March 2005, I co-sponsored a Brown Bag entitled "City Drug Policies." Statistics and studies have shown that locking up offenders who have personal drug addictions and/or suffer from mental illness is not the only approach to solve this problem.

In April 2005, over 200 people participated in a crime summit and public hearing. Community members were loud and clear -- they needed help to make their communities safe again. Most recently, we voted to add 25 new police officers. Additionally, we will continue to take on this issue comprehensively by examining ways to provide help to offenders to get out of the habit of drugs and to address mental illness.

## UPDATES

### Sister City: Cebu, Philippines

In March, I convened several city and community leaders to talk about ways to strengthen the City's sister-city relationship with Cebu, Philippines. The City of Seattle established its sister city relationship with Cebu in 1991 to develop a closer relationship between the two cities through cultural and educational exchanges, as well as to promote trade and tourism. The forum provided an overview of the Sister Cities program, an explanation about why the city of Cebu was chosen as a sister city, a presentation of the organization's recent accomplishments, and an invitation to the first ever Philippines/USA International Trade Conference.



*(Councilmember David J. Della consults with the City of Cebu's Mayor Tomas Osmena.)*



*(Celebrating the grand opening of the City Hall Plaza with community members, Council President Jan Drago, Councilmember Nick Licata, and Mayor Greg Nickels.)*

### Participating in Community Celebrations

Over the past three months, I've had the pleasure and privilege to be a part of a number of park and community events. A small sampling is listed below.

#### Parks Openings

Arboretum Shoreline Trail Restoration Project ■ Kiwanis Ravine Ribbon Cutting ■ Luna Park Opening ■ Community Celebrations ■ Beyond the Mask of Denial (Healthy Family and Communities) ■ Wallingford Boys & Girls Club Renovation Plans & Celebration ■ Kubota Garden Dedication ■ Benefit Park Opening ■ Cascade Park Grand Opening ■ Homer Harris Park Dedication

### Community Visits

University Park Community Club Quarterly Meeting ■ Environmental Coalition of South Seattle ■ Broadway Improvement Association Visit ■ 25th Annual Earth Day ■ Greenwood Businesses & Residents ■ Annual Rainbow Bookfest: Celebrating Authors of Color ■ Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration ■ Southwest Community Center Opening ■ Fred Lind Manor Retirement Community Visit ■ Grand Opening of City Hall Plaza ■ National CAPACD Conference ■ North Rainier/International District Neighborhood Power Project Celebration ■ Philippines/USA International Trade Conference ■ International District Library Opening ■ Neighborhood Matching Fund Volunteer Appreciation Day

## COUNCILMEMBER DELLA'S CALENDAR

*Following is a sampling of future events where I'll be. I hope to see you there!*

**July 30<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM**

South Seattle Community College  
Duwamish Industrial Education Center  
6770 E. Marginal Way S.

South Seattle Community College Safety  
Training Center Grand Opening

**August 3<sup>rd</sup>, August 17<sup>th</sup>, September 7<sup>th</sup> and  
September 21<sup>st</sup>**

All meetings start at 2:00 PM  
City Hall Chambers  
600 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Parks, Neighborhoods & Education (PNE)  
Committee

**July 25<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-8:00 PM**

Yesler Community Center  
917 E. Yesler Way

PNE Committee in the Community

**July 29<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-11:30 AM**

Location TBA

Joint City/ Schools Committee Meeting – a  
meeting of Seattle City Councilmembers and  
Seattle Public School Board Directors

**Please feel free to call my office (206-684-8806) for further details on any  
of the above events!**